

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

DOCKET NO. 6860

Petitions of Vermont Electric Power Company)
Inc. (VELCO) and Green Mountain Power)
Corporation (GMP) for a certificate of public)
good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248,)
authorizing VELCO to construct the so-called)
Northwest Reliability Project)

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DAVID RAPHAEL

ON BEHALF OF THE
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

December 17, 2003

Summary: Mr. Raphael's testimony addresses whether the Northwest Reliability Project, as currently proposed, will have undue adverse effect on aesthetics and scenic beauty.

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1 **Q. Please state your name and occupation.**

2 A. My name is David Raphael and I am a Professional Landscape Architect and
3 Planner as well as a Lecturer in the School of Natural Resources at the University
4 of Vermont.

5

6 **Q. Please briefly describe the purpose of your testimony.**

7 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present the conclusions reached in analyzing
8 the potential aesthetic impacts of the Vermont Electric Power Company's
9 (VELCO) proposed Northwest Reliability Project which is before the Vermont
10 Public Service Board in Docket 6860. I was retained to perform such an analysis
11 by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

12

13 **Q. Please summarize your qualifications.**

14 I began my career as landscape architect and planner working for the State of
15 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. Since 1986 I have
16 been the Principal and owner of LandWorks, a multidisciplinary planning, design
17 and communications firm based in Middlebury, Vermont. LandWorks serves both
18 public and private sector clients in Vermont and the Northeast. Our areas of
19 expertise include visual, aesthetic and environmental assessment, site and master
20 planning, graphic communications and GIS mapping, permit planning,
21 participatory and community planning, downtown revitalization, open space and
22 conservation planning, zoning ordinance and design review development,

1 landscape architecture and environmental design. At LandWorks we have worked
2 as advocates for communities, appellants, the State of Vermont and private
3 corporations. I personally have presented and served as an expert witness before
4 most of the District Commissions in the State and the Environmental Board, as
5 well as the Public Service Board.

6
7 LandWorks has extensive experience with regard to visual assessment and
8 environmental impact, Criterion 8 of Act 250, and the design and installation of
9 utility facilities and towers. We have been a consultant in this capacity for the
10 Vermont Department of Public Service. We have evaluated the aesthetic and
11 environmental impact of transmission lines and corridors (throughout the state of
12 Vermont); transmission towers (throughout the state of Vermont and the PV20
13 line removal along the Route 2 causeway in Milton/South Hero); proposed
14 telecommunication facilities (Coy Mountain tower proposal) and windpower
15 turbines (Searsburg project developed by Green Mountain Power Corp.). We have
16 prepared feasibility studies for windpower siting for the Lamoille County
17 Development Commission. I have served as a member of the Design Issues Study
18 Committee appointed by the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, an
19 initiative which clarified the application of the Quechee Analysis for aesthetics
20 and which resulted in the publication of *Vermont's Scenic Landscapes: A Guide*
21 *for Growth and Protection*. In addition we have prepared zoning ordinances
22 based on scenery preservation and environmental protection guidelines (Town of
23 Stowe Scenic Hillside and Overlay District), prepared scenic highway corridor
24 studies (Interstate 91 in Brattleboro) and authored a study and state policy which
25 was adopted for permit review of the night lighting of ski areas (Agency of
26 Natural Resources).

27
28 Q. **Please briefly describe the process you undertook to analyze the**
29 **proposed project.**

1 A. Our methodology for this project included visual and cartographic analysis,
2 research and review. Our primary analyses assesses the project's visibility and
3 potential for visual and aesthetic impacts, with a focus on viewsheds from major
4 federal, state or local roads, relationships to nearby areas of public interest, high
5 scenic value and/or official designation as a cultural, aesthetic or recreational
6 facility or resource, road crossings and locations that involve individual
7 residences or residential areas. We have used on site and field study to reinforce
8 our analysis and findings. The technical expertise of the Department of Public
9 Service and their consultants has also provided guidance for our work. We have
10 used the documents and exhibits provided/submitted by VELCO, including but
11 not limited to the Direct Testimony Volumes I and II and the Exhibits of VELCO
12 on Direct Volumes 1,4,5 and 6. Finally, our report states our overall conclusions
13 with regard to the aesthetic impacts of this project under the so-called Quechee
14 Decision, as developed by the Vermont Environmental Board for aesthetic
15 analysis and conclusions.

16
17 Q. **Is your report attached?**

18 A. Yes it is, as Exhibit DPS-DR-1, and Exhibits DPS-DR-2 through DPS-DR-9.

19
20 Q: **Does this conclude your testimony?**

21 A: Yes.